

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

*United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam*

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Crowley (619)557-5733

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 6, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today the unsealing of two indictments charging a total of six individuals with various offenses arising out of their manufacturing and distribution of marijuana in the San Diego area. The charges stem from a long-term investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) San Diego Integrated Narcotics Task Force of the trafficking of marijuana by individuals through various locations in San Diego, under the guise of providing “medical marijuana” to members of the community.

A federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up the indictments on Wednesday, July 5, 2006, which were unsealed this morning. In the first indictment, John Sullivan is charged with one count of conspiracy to manufacture and distribute marijuana and one count of manufacturing marijuana. The indictment alleges that Sullivan operated several marijuana distribution locations in San Diego and elsewhere, and he presently operates “The Purple Bud Room” at 1165 Garnet Avenue. The indictment also charges that Sullivan operated and/or managed two distribution locations known as “Tender Holistics Care” or “THC” in

San Diego, which distributed marijuana and marijuana-based products, such as ice cream, ice cream toppings, candy bars, and baked goods.

In the second indictment, Wayne Hudson, Christopher Larkin, Ross McManus, Scott Wright, and Michael Ragin are charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute marijuana, and one count of conspiracy to manufacture marijuana. According to the indictment, from at least 2005 to the present, Wayne Hudson, Christopher Larkin, and Ross McManus owned, managed and directed “Co-Op San Diego” – a site from which they distributed marijuana and marijuana plants. To supply their operation, Hudson, Larkin, and McManus arranged for the operation of large indoor marijuana grows at various residences in San Diego, which were overseen by Scott Wright and Michael James Ragin.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Crowley, who is prosecuting the cases, search warrants were executed today at 11 locations in San Diego County.

United States Attorney Lam said, “These defendants were not caregivers, and they did not run medical dispensaries. These defendants are drug traffickers who were illegally selling marijuana in the middle of our commercial districts.”

DEA Special Agent in Charge John Fernandes said, “The DEA’s investigative and enforcement role is clearly defined. The manufacturing, trafficking, distribution and sale of marijuana is against the law regardless of what shape, form or manner it takes.”

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 06CR1516-LAB

John Sullivan

Case Number: 06CR1515-LAB

Wayne Hudson
Christopher Larkin
Ross McManus
Scott Wright
Michael Ragin

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1)

Maximum Penalties: Each count of the indictments carries a maximum term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years or more than 40 years in prison and, a maximum fine of \$ 2,000,000, and term of supervised release of at least four years.

AGENCIES

San Diego Integrated Narcotics Task Force

Drug Enforcement Administration

San Diego Police Department

San Diego Sheriff's Department

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.